

Beginner

Bible Study Guide

A Sabbath School Bible Study Guide for Beginner Children
GraceLink® Sabbath School Curriculum

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Special thanks to . . .

Special thanks to **Bailey Gillespie** and **Stuart Tyner** of the John Hancock Center for Youth Ministry at La Sierra University for initial work in planning the GraceLink® curriculum, and to **Patricia A. Habada** for coordinating the GraceLink® project and seeing it to completion.

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Basic Needs of Children*

All children have certain basic needs as well as needs that are specific to their age and stage of development. The basic needs of children are . . .

Physical

- Food
- Warmth
- Shelter

Mental

- Power—to make choices and follow plans

Emotional

- A sense of belonging
- Approval and recognition
- Expressions of unconditional love and acceptance
- Freedom within defined boundaries
- Humor—a chance to laugh

Spiritual

- An all-knowing, loving, caring God
- Forgiveness of wrongs and a chance to start over
- Assurance of acceptance with God
- Experience in prayer, answers to prayer
- A chance to grow in grace and in the knowledge of God

The Beginner Child

In the Seventh-day Adventist Church the GraceLink curriculum for beginners targets children ages birth through 2 years. However, both the beginner and the kindergarten materials are adaptable to 3-year-olds.

A general rule applying to the beginner child is: seat children so their feet easily touch the ground. For children under 18 months use walkers (without wheels).

To better understand beginner children, ages birth through 2 years, it is helpful to note characteristics of their growth and development.

Physical

- Vary greatly in their physical development
- Are growing rapidly
- Tire easily
- Cannot sit still for long

Mental

- Have an attention span of only one or two minutes
- Learn by active involvement and imitation rather than by instruction
- Learn best one ministeep at a time
- Focus attention on what they see and/or touch

Emotional

- Are extremely egocentric—centered in themselves
- Fear separation from parents
- Cry easily; one crying child sets other children crying
- Express their needs by crying. The crying usually stops when needs are met.
- Become attached to adults who show love and acceptance of them

Spiritual

- Sense attitudes of respect, joy, and anticipation in connection with church, the Bible, and Jesus
- Can identify pictures of Jesus and lisp His name
- Will fold hands (briefly) for the blessing before meals and kneel (again briefly) for prayer

Developmental Needs

In addition to the basic needs listed earlier, 2-year-olds need to experience:

- Power—to have a chance to manipulate objects, events, people
- Freedom—to make choices, to interact in learning situations, to sometimes move about at will
- Independence—to do some things unaided
- Security—to feel safe

**Children's Ministries: Ideas and Techniques That Work*, ed. Ann Calkins (Lincoln, Nebr.: AdventSource, 1997).

A Letter to Parents

Dear Friends,

Welcome to this edition of the GraceLink curriculum *Beginner Bible Study Guide*. Do you like the colorful illustrations? Are you and your child enjoying the Do and Say suggestions at the end of each lesson?

This is a book to keep and use again and again. Encourage your child to “read” the pictures often. Ask him or her questions about what is illustrated, the colors of objects, how many people, and who they are. Count the animals or the people. Take time now and then to review the memory verses and finger plays located at the end of the book. Using the motions will help your child recall those verses later on.

If you haven’t already seen the songbook *Little Voices Praise Him*, you may want to get a copy from your Adventist Book Center. More than 300 songs—old and new—are finally together in one volume. And many of the songs are being taught in your Sabbath School now.

Remember, these lessons are introduced in Sabbath School. This book is intended for use as daily reinforcement. Share the story with your child each day. Review the memory verse and do the motions. Have fun with the Do and Say activities. And encourage your child in careful handling of God’s Word as you read from the Bible together.

Pray with your child often. And when you do, include us in those prayers. Let us pray for one another as together we seek to lead our children to Christ.

**Cordially,
The Editors**

REFERENCES: 1 SAMUEL 3:1-10; PATRIARCHS AND PROPHETS, PP. 581, 582.

Samuel Listens to God

Memory Verse:

“Little Samuel was helping the Lord.” 1 SAMUEL 3:1, TLB.

The Message:

We are God’s little helpers.

Parents:

By the end of the month you can help your child:

Know that they can be helpers.

Feel happy to help God.

Respond by helping at home and in Sabbath School.

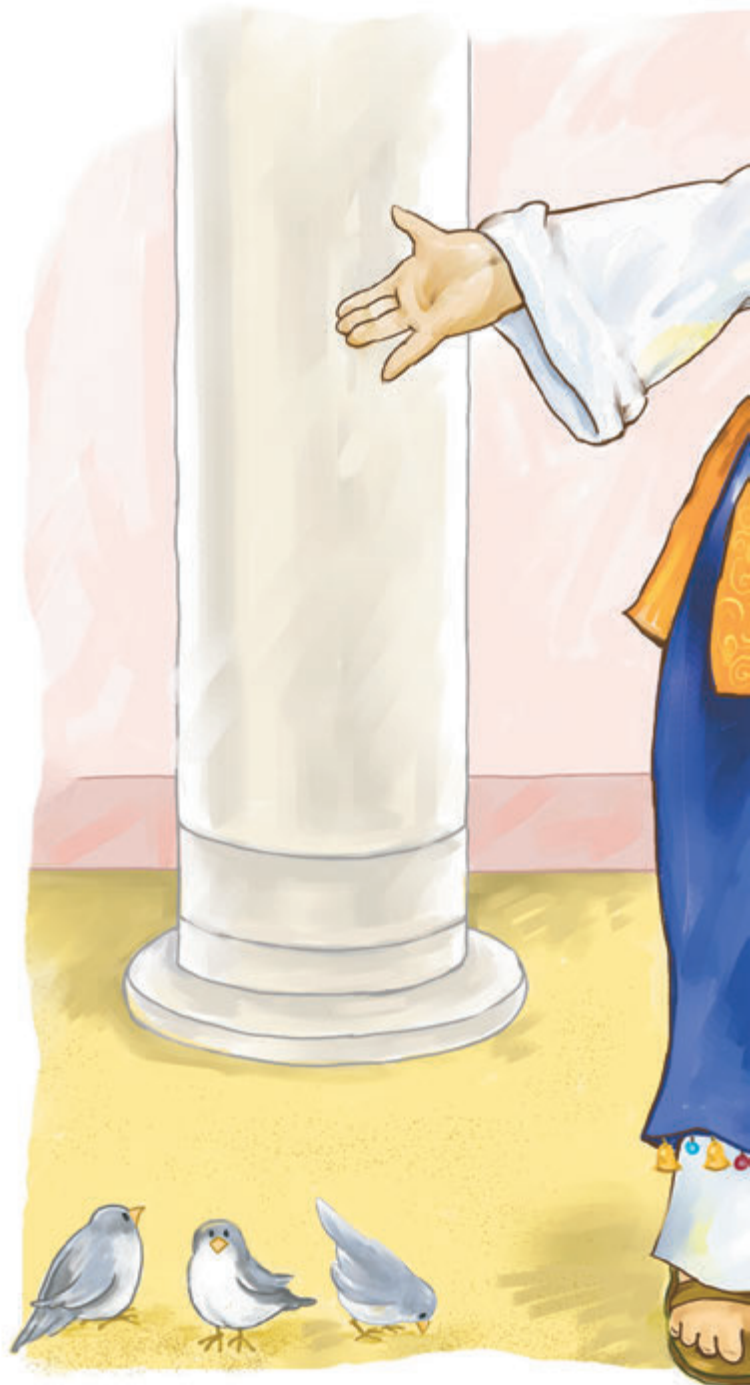


Cory is a helper. He helps set the table. Samuel was a helper too—just like Cory.



Little Samuel lives at God's tent. Little Samuel has work to do. He is Priest Eli's helper.

(Make a little tent by draping a cloth over the table. As you make the tent together, sing, "Samuel was a helper, helper, helper. Samuel was a helper, helping at God's tent.")









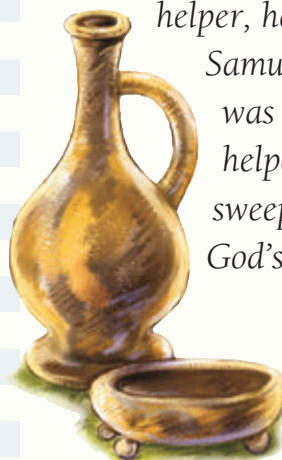
See Little Samuel.
(Point to Samuel.)

See his broom. (Point to the broom.) Little Samuel has a job to do. He sweeps around God's tent. (Point to the tabernacle.)

Little Samuel is Priest Eli's helper. (Point to Eli.) Little Samuel is God's helper too. (Make a tent and sweep. Sing, "Samuel

was a helper,
helper, helper.

Samuel
was a
helper,
sweeping at
God's tent.")



See the pretty
candlestick.

Little Samuel has a
job to do. He polishes
the candlestick.

Little Samuel
is Priest Eli's helper.
(Point to Eli.) Little
Samuel is God's helper
too. (Light a candle on
the table, out of reach.
Let your child blow the
candle out. Clap and
affirm your child for
helping. Sing: "Samuel
was a helper, helper,
helper. Samuel was a
helper, polishing
the candle-
stick.")









It is night at God's tent. (*Make two beds on the floor with quilts.*) Priest Eli sleeps in his bed. (*Lie down as if you are Eli.*)

Samuel snuggles in his bed. (*Your child lies down.*) Samuel is not asleep. He is looking at the curtains. (Sing, "Samuel, little helper, helper, helper. Samuel, little helper, now it's time to sleep.")

Shh! Eli is sleeping. (*Snore softly.*)

Sam-u-el!" (Call out, then whisper.) Shh! Who is calling? (Pause.) "Samuel!" (Loudly again.) It must be Eli.

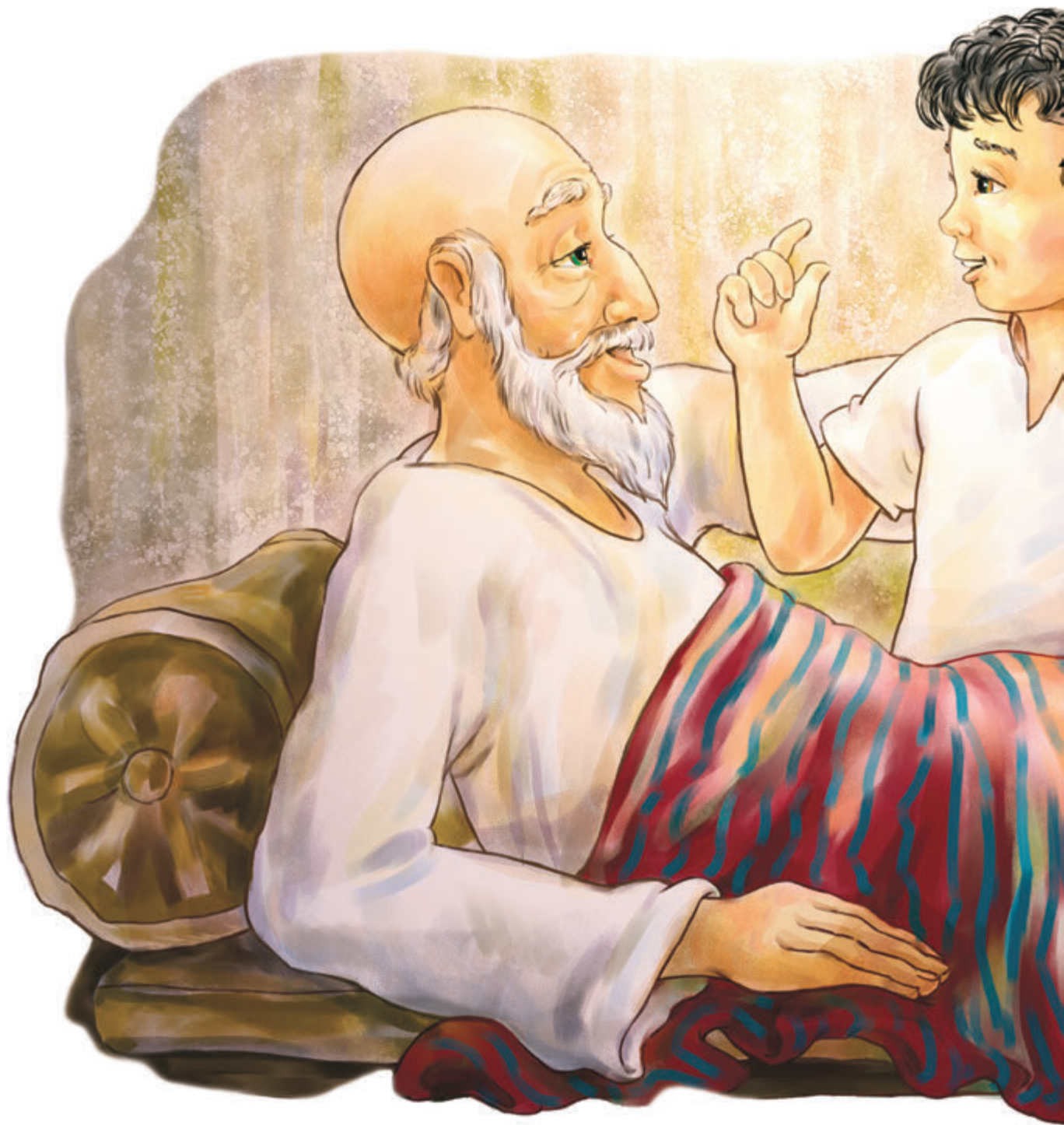
Little Samuel runs to Eli. "Here I am!" he says. "You called me."

"No," Priest Eli replies. (Shake head.) "I did not call. Run back to bed."

(Repeat this twice, making Eli sound more emphatic each time.)









Go back to bed,
little Samuel,”
says Priest Eli. “God
is calling you. Next
time say, ‘Speak,
Lord. Your helper
is listening.’”

So Samuel goes
back to bed. (*Your
child pretends to sleep.*)



Sam-u-el,” God calls again.

Samuel sits up and says (*wait for your child to sit up*), “Speak, Your helper is listening.”

And God gave special messages to His little helper. (*Hug your child as you whisper in your child’s ear: “Samuel was God’s little helper. And you can be God’s helper too.”*)





Do & Say

Samuel may have helped put out candles at night. Have your child pretend their index finger is a lit candle and have them “blow it out” after they say the memory verse.

Sing a song about baby animals running to their mothers when they are called. Suggested song: “When a Mother Calls” (*Little Voices Praise Him*, No. 274).

Help your child put away toys while singing “Let’s Put All Our Toys Away” (*Little Voices Praise Him*, No. 294).



Tell the Bible story using thumbs as Samuel and Eli. Draw faces on your thumbs. Make them sleep inside your closed fists.

Play a shadow game. Children copy what you do (dust furniture, put away toys, and so on).

Make a bed for Samuel with a bath mat or towel. Help your child roll up and unroll the “bed” as Samuel did.

Let your child help prepare a special treat for a Sabbath meal.



Help your child listen to and identify different outdoor sounds (animals, birds, wind, traffic, etc.).

Have your child help you clean the house. Work together to sweep, dust, and carry out the trash.

Play a game such as Simon says to give your child practice in listening to and following directions.

Sing (and do the actions) “Coming, Mother” (*Little Voices Praise Him*, No. 266) or make up a little song about coming when Mother calls.



Help your child listen to and identify different sounds around the house (refrigerator, running water, doorbell, telephone, etc.).

Make a pin with a happy face on it. Write “I’m God’s little helper” on it. Have your child wear it when helping at home.



Make a little book together, gluing on its pages magazine pictures of things your child can do to help at home.

Prepare and decorate a box in which your child may put away clothes or toys. Where will you keep it?

Lesson 1

Little Samuel

BASED ON 1 SAMUEL 3:1, TLB

Musical score for 'Little Samuel' in G major, 8/8 time. The score consists of two systems of a treble and bass staff. The lyrics are: 'Lit-tle Sam-uel was help-ing the Lord, Help-ing the Lord, help-ing the Lord.' and 'Lit - tle Sam-uel was help-ing the Lord, Help - ing the Lord.____'.

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Memory Verse

Little Samuel



was helping



the Lord.



1 Samuel 3:1, TLB.



LINE ART ILLUSTRATOR: Jim Haynes

REFERENCES: 1 KINGS 17:1-16; *PROPHETS AND KINGS*, PP. 119-131.

Food for Elijah

Memory Verse:

“My God will meet all your needs” PHILIPPIANS 4:19, NIV.

The Message:

God takes care of our needs.

Parents:

By the end of the month you can help your child:

Know that God takes care of their needs.

Feel grateful that God looks after them.

Respond by praising God for His care.



Mei Ling sees the baby bird. Mother bird brings food for the baby bird. A long time ago birds brought food to a man.

God told Elijah to take a message to King Ahab. So

Elijah told the king: “God says, ‘No rain for one-two-three-years!’” *(Count on your child’s fingers.)*

King Ahab *(point to the king)* is angry at God. He is angry at Elijah, too. *(Point to Elijah.)* Elijah is God’s friend. God will hide Elijah.

Run, Elijah, run! The king is looking for you. *(Shade your eyes; look around.)* Run and hide Elijah. *(Run with child around the table.)*









Where is Elijah?
(Child points
to Elijah.) Hiding,
hiding. Elijah is hiding
from mean King Ahab.
(Together, hide behind
a chair and finish
reading this page.)

The king cannot
see Elijah. Nobody can
see God's friend.
(Shade eyes, look
around.) But God can
see Elijah. God takes
good care of
His friend.
(Clap.)



Shh! *(Finger to lips. Whisper.)*

Listen, listen. What does Elijah hear?

Elijah hears the water. *(Point to the water.)* Elijah hears wind in the trees.

And God hears Elijah pray. *(Clasp hands in prayer.)* Rest, Elijah, rest. Rest by the water.









Drinking, drinking. (*Pretend to drink.*) Elijah has lots of water. But where is Elijah's food? (*Point to Elijah and the bare rocks around him.*)

There is no food for Elijah. No bread. No rice. No potatoes.



See the big black birds. They fly in the sky. (*Pretend to fly.*) Big black birds bring food for Elijah. They bring bread. (*Pretend to eat.*) Yum-yum-yum! The birds brought bread for Elijah to eat. (*Clasp hands in prayer.*) “Thank You for the bread. Thank You, God, for sending the big black birds.”









It is time to sleep. Elijah kneels and talks to God. (*Kneel and close eyes.*) “Thank You, God, for this safe place. Thank You for the water. Thank You for the big black birds and for the food. Thank You for loving me. Amen.” (*Hug your child.*)



Every morning
and every night
big birds fly to Elijah.
(Pretend to fly.) Big
birds bring him bread.

For one-two-three
years there is no rain.
(Count on your child's
fingers.) The trees dry
up. (Point to a dry leaf.)
The water dries up.
(Try to drink from an
empty glass.)

But God takes good
care of Elijah. "Thank
You, Jesus. You love
Elijah and You love
us."





Play a hiding game such as Elijah hiding from King Ahab. Sing a song of thanks to Jesus for taking care of your family.

Help your child say a thank-You prayer to God for your family.

Sprinkle water on your child while he or she is in the bathtub. Talk about how God sends the rain. Thank God for the rain.

Do & Say

Study these suggestions for something to do each day. Select those that are appropriate for your child's developmental stage and repeat them often.



Look at pictures of birds in a book; find a raven. Thank Jesus for the birds we enjoy.



Take a walk and name all the things that need water to grow. Thank Jesus for good water that makes things grow.

Find a picture of an angel and talk about how angels watch over us. Tell your child about his or her guardian angel.

Look at pictures of firefighters, police officers, etc., and talk about how they keep us safe.

Drink a glass of water and talk about how good it is for your body.



Ask your child to pretend to do things such as run, sleep, eat, etc. While they do, ask, "Is God taking care of you?" Then say, "Yes, God is taking care of you."

Pretend you are birds and fly to each other with a cracker in your "beak." Thank Jesus for your food.

Visit a brook or stream and talk about how Elijah lived by a brook.



Notice all the different kinds of bread at the grocery store. Let your child pick a favorite. Or let your child help you make bread.

Watch it rain. Go outside afterward and notice how the water soaks into the ground. Or let your child use an umbrella and walk in the rain.

Visit an aviary, pet store, or zoo to see different kinds of birds.

Let your child use a doll to pretend to be a mommy or daddy. Talk about and count the ways your child can show kindness at home.

Lesson 2

My God Will Meet Your Needs

My God



(Point upward.)

Will meet all your needs,



(Point to others.)

All your needs,



(Point to others.)

All your needs;



(Point to others.)

My God



(Point upward.)

Will meet all your needs,



(Point to others.)

Thank You, thank You, Lord.



(Put hands together as if praying.)

—Carolyn Burge. Adapted.

From *Fun-to-Learn Bible Lessons: K-3* (Loveland, Colo.: Group Publishing, 1995) volume 2.

REFERENCES: 2 KINGS 4:8-37; PROPHETS AND KINGS, P. 237.

A New Baby Boy

Memory Verse:

“Do good to each other” 1 THESSALONIANS 5:15, TLB.

The Message:

We can be kind to others.

Parents:

By the end of the month you can help your child:

Know that God wants us to care for one another.

Feel happy when they do nice things for others.

Respond by showing kindness that makes others happy.



*Aaron likes to play with baby. See the baby's tiny fingers.
Aaron holds the baby's finger. One woman in the Bible feels sad.
She has no baby.*

Elisha is God's man. (*Point to Elisha.*) Walking, walking. (*Together, walk around the room.*) Elisha takes a long walk to Shunem.

A kind woman (*point to the woman*) sees Elisha coming. "Elisha, come to our house!" the kind woman calls. "Come and eat with us."









See the good food. "Please eat," the kind woman says. *(Point to the food.)* Yum-yum-yum! *(Pretend to eat.)* She gives Elisha some good fruit.

Elisha eats good food. Soon he is full. *(Rub tummy.)*



Elisha needs a place to rest when he comes here,” the kind woman says to her husband. *(Point to the woman.)* “Let’s build a room for him.”

So the kind woman and her husband decide to build a little room for Elisha.

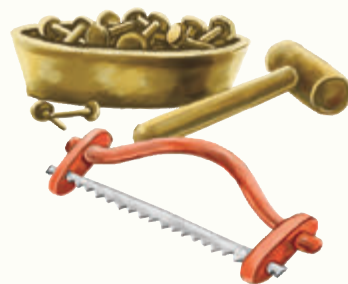








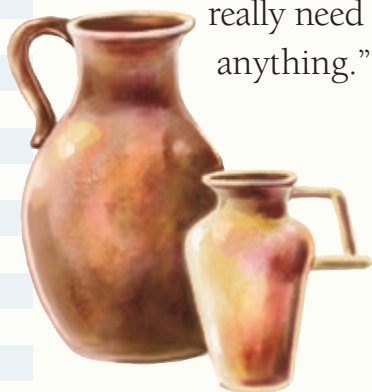
Every day the kind man works to build a room for Elisha. *(Point to the man.)* His hammer goes tap, tap, tap. *(Point to the hammer and pretend to tap with a hammer.)* His saw goes cut, cut, cut. *(Pretend to cut wood with a saw.)*



See Elisha's new room. (*Point to each item as it is named.*) See Elisha's table. See the lamp on the table. "This room is for you, Elisha," the kind woman says.

Elisha likes his new room. (*Point to Elisha.*) "Thank you," he says. "You are so kind to me. I want to do something for you."

But the kind woman says, "Thank you, but I don't really need anything."









Elisha really wants to do something nice for the kind woman. His servant says that the kind woman has no children. She really wants a baby. Sometimes she is sad because she has no little baby at her house.

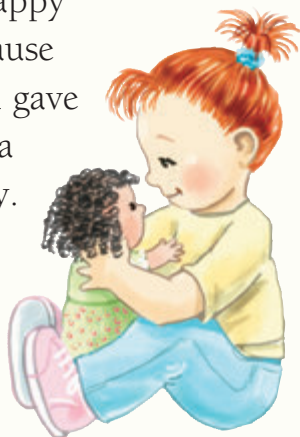
Elisha says, "You are kind to me. I will ask God to give you a baby boy. Next year, you will have a baby to love."



See the little baby. (*Point to the baby.*) “Come, see my baby boy,” the kind woman calls to Elisha. (*Point to Elisha.*)

Elisha feels happy. (*Laugh and tickle your child.*) Elisha feels happy for the kind woman. (*Point to the woman.*)

Her baby is growing. (*Point to the baby.*) Soon he will be a big boy. The kind woman is happy because God gave her a baby.





Do & Say

Call or visit someone your child loves. Talk about a kind deed your child can do for that person.

Go to a place where children run and play. Encourage your child to be kind to the other children. Sing a sharing song you know or make one up.

Build a “room for Elisha” with blocks or empty boxes, or use toy tools to hammer and saw.

Play a “Can-you-do-this?” game. Have your child help you do something kind as you play (pick up paper, put books away, set the table, etc.).

Say the finger play “Five Little Children” learned in Sabbath School (see page 64).

Let your child help you set the table nicely for family dinner tonight. Practice saying please and thank you to each other as you work.



Prepare a chores chart with simple things your child can do to help at home. Affirm them when they help you.



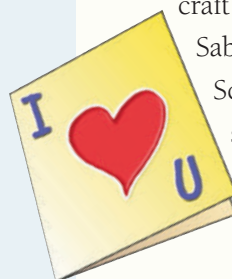
Record your child saying or singing the memory verse. Play it back to them.

Make a card with paint blobs. Scatter some drops of different colored paint on a paper. Fold the paper in half. Unfold it and let it dry. Write the memory verse inside.

Sing the chorus of "Jesus Loves Me." Sing it again but change the words to "Yes, Mommy (Daddy) loves me, And I love (Jesus, Mommy, Daddy), too."

Set out two boxes or baskets. Have your child put away their toys in one and clothes in the other.

Take some flowers, food, a card, or the craft made in Sabbath School to a shut-in.



Name and count with your child the ways they were kind to others today.



Spend some time snuggling together while reading a story. Tell your child how much you love them.

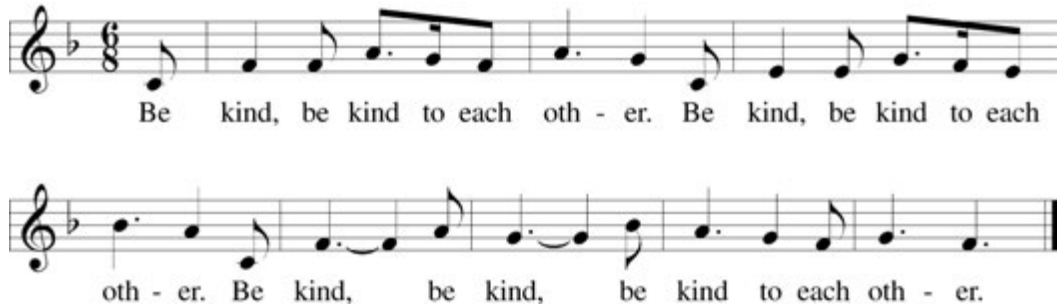
Let your child help you bake some goodies. Serve them as a special surprise at supper or give them to a neighbor or shut-in.

Lesson 3

Be Kind to Each Other

BASED ON 1 THESSALONIANS 5:15, NIV

LINDA SCHOMBURG



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God Gave Me Ears

God gave me ears and eyes;



God gave me hands and feet



So I can share the love I have

With everyone I meet!



From *Finger Play Activities* (Ventura, Calif.: Gospel Light Publishing, 1995), p. 105. Used by permission.

Coming, Mother

MARILYN SCHOLES

MARILYN SCHOLES

Bob - by, Bob - by!* Please come here to me. Bob - by, Bob - by, wher -

ev - er you may be. Com - ing, Moth - er, as Je - sus wants me

to. Com - ing, Moth - er, I'm com - ing now to you.

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* Insert child's name

Lesson 2

The Blackbird Song

JANET SAGE

JANET SAGE

1. Where are you go - ing, Black - bird, Black - bird,
 2. What do you have there, Black - bird, Black - bird,
 3. Who sends you to him, Black - bird, Black - bird,
 4. Why does He send you, Black - bird, Black - bird,

Where are you go - ing, Black - bird? "I am go - ing to
 What do you have there, Black - bird? "I have food to
 Who sends you to him, Black - bird? "Je - sus sends me
 Why does He send you, Black - bird? "All be - cause He

help E - li - jah, Have - n't you heard? Have - n't you heard?"
 feed E - li - jah, Have - n't you heard? Have - n't you heard?"
 to E - li - jah, Have - n't you heard? Have - n't you heard?"
 loves E - li - jah, Have - n't you heard? Have - n't you heard?"

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Samuel, Samuel

Samuel, Samuel, sweep the floor.



Samuel, Samuel, close your eyes.

Shut the Tabernacle door.



Do you hear a voice? What a surprise!



Samuel, Samuel, carry wood.

Run to Eli once again.

Shine the dishes, stir the food.



He did not call; get back in bed.



Samuel, Samuel, time for bed.

Find a pillow for your head.



But wait. There IS a voice to hear.



Samuel, listen with both ears!

What's that sound? Did someone call?



Run to Eli, sleepy man;



Samuel, Samuel! Run down the hall!

This time Eli understands.

Sleepy Eli did not speak.

God is calling! Tell Him, "Lord,



Run back now and go to sleep.



Your servant's listening for Your word."

Based on 1 Samuel 3:1-10.

From *Finger Play Activities* (Ventura, Calif.: Gospel Light Publishing, 1995), p. 55. Used by permission.

Five Little Children

Five little children (*Hold a hand up with
fingers all up.*)
Standing in a row.
They do good things for others,
Everywhere they go. (*Put all fingers down.*)

One little child, (*Raise left thumb.*)
She's really very sweet.
She helps her mother
Stack the laundry neat. (*Put one hand over
the other as if stacking things.*)

This good child (*Raise second finger.*)
Puts all toys away
Nice and neat for mother,
Does this every day. (*Pretend putting toys
in box.*)

This little child (*Raise third finger.*)
Helps father in the yard.

He says he works
Very, very hard. (*Pretend raking.*)

This little child (*Raise fourth finger.*)
Plays with baby brother.
That is very helpful
To this child's mother. (*Cover eyes, playing
peekaboo.*)

This little child (*Raise fifth finger.*)
Knows of Jesus' love. (*Hug yourself.*)
How He came from heaven, (*Point up.*)
God's home up above.

Five little children (*Hold a hand up with
fingers all up.*)
Standing in a row.
They do good things for others,
Everywhere they go. (*Move hand up and
down and away as if children are
walking away.*)

Adapted from Helen Kitchell Evans, "Ten Little Children," in *Preschool Bible Games, Songs and Fingerplays* (Torrance, Calif.: Shining Star Publications, 1992), p. 68.